

Message Text

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ACTION OPR-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 OC-06 CCO-00 SY-05
SCS-06 CA-01 MMO-01 ICA-11 AID-05 PER-01 FS-01
PPT-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /089 W
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P 080608Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9582

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BEIRUT 5205

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT LE US
SUBJ: E&E SITUATION IN BEIRUT

1. I HAVE NOW BEEN BACK FROM LEAVE LONG ENOUGH TO REASSESS THE SECURITY SITUATION WITH THE COUNTRY TEAM SUFFICIENTLY FOR A RECONSIDERATION OF 1) THE DRAWDOWN ON PERSONNEL, 2) THE ADVICE TO AMERICAN CITIZENS TO LEAVE, AND 3) THE EVACUATION OF DEPENDENTS. ON THE BASIS OF THIS REASSESSMENT, I HAVE DETERMINED THE FOLLOWING.

2. WE SHOULD NOT NOW FURTHER DRAW DOWN THE MISSION PERSONNEL BELOW THE LEVEL OF THE ARRANGEMENTS WORKED OUT AT THE END OF JULY. THE DAO OFFICE SHOULD REMAIN AT THREE AMERICAN PERSONNEL. THE USICA COMPLEMENT SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE REDUCED BY ONE OFFICER, MR. PALMERI. THE STAFFING OF THE AID MISSION IS STILL BEING CONSIDERED AND WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF FURTHER COMMUNICATIONS. MR. PATTERSON SHOULD COME AHEAD AS THE NEW POLITICAL OFFICER. AN ADDITIONAL OFFICER SHOULD BE ASSIGNED FULL-TIME TO THE CONSULAR SECTION FOR THE DURATION OF THE PRESENT UNUSUALLY
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HEAVY WORK LOAD--IF NOT MS. MCATEER, THEN EITHER A TDY OFFICER OR AN OFFICER IN A NEW PERMANENT CONSULAR POSITION (SEPTTEL).

3. THE ADVISORY GUIDANCE WE GAVE THAT AMERICAN CITIZENS WHO DO NOT HAVE BUSINESS IN BEIRUT SHOULD LEAVE SHOULD STAY AS IT IS. THE SITUATION REMAINS

TENSE AND UNCERTAIN.

4. WITH REGARD TO DEPENDENTS, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THERE MUST BE NO MINOR DEPENDENTS AT THE POST. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT SECURITY CONDITIONS AT THE POST ARE SUCH THAT WIVES WITHOUT CHILDREN SHOULD BE OBLIGED TO CONTINUE TO REMAIN ON EVACUATION STATUS AGAINST THEIR WILL. THIS REPRESENTS THE MAJORITY VIEW OF THE COUNTRY TEAM. THE RSO DOES NOT CONCUR IN THIS VIEW BECAUSE HE BELIEVES THAT THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN OFFICIAL COMMUNITY AT THIS POST MUST BE KEPT TO THE MINIMUM NECESSARY TO PERFORM OUR MISSION. WHILE I QUITE UNDERSTAND HIS CONCERN, WHAT IS AT ISSUE IS SIMPLY THE RETURN OF MRS. KINSOLVING AND MRS. MALIK TO THE POST AND THE CONTINUATION OF MRS. IRVIN AT THE POST WHETHER SHE IS WORKING OR NOT. (IN FACT, ALL THREE OF THESE WIVES HAVE INDICATED THAT THEY ARE PREPARED TO WORK IN THE EMBASSY WHEN THERE IS AN AMERICAN SECRETARIAL POSITION VACANT). I THEREFORE NOW AUTHORIZE MRS. KINSOLVING AND MRS. MALIK TO RETURN TO THE POST.

DECONTROL OCTOBER 20, 1978.

PARKER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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